

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claims 29 and 30 are allowable.

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite subject matter of allowed claims 29 and 30 respectively, claims 29 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 31-33 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the new claims appears e.g. in the original claims of the application. Thus, claim 31 recites subject matter of original claim 29. Claim 32 recites subject matter of former claim 29. Claim 33 recites subject matter of original claim 1 as well as claim 29.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Donnelly et al. (U.S. Patent 4925386).

While Applicants disagree with the rejection, claims 1 and 20 (the only rejected independent claims) have been amended to recite subject matter of dependent claims 29 and 30 respectfully, which dependent claims were indicated to be allowable.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 3-7, 11-17, 19, 21-26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Donnelly et al. (U.S. Patent 4925386) in view of Donnelly et al. (U.S. Patent 6521869).

While Applicants also disagree with this rejection, Applicants are submitting under separate cover a Rule 131 Declaration which will antedate U.S. Patent 6521869 and thereby obviate the rejection.

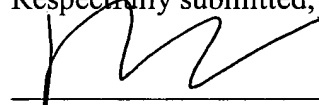
Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Donnelly (U.S. Patent 4925386) in view of Geary (U.S. Patent 4935606). The rejection is traversed.

Claim 9 is dependent from claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 recites subject matter of former claim 29, which former claim was indicated to be allowable.

Claims 18 and 27 were rejected under over Donnelly et al. (U.S. Patent 4925386) in view of Donnelly et al. (U.S. Patent 6521869) and further in view of Geary (U.S. Patent 4935606).

As discussed above, Applicants are submitting under separate cover a Rule 131 Declaration which will antedate U.S. Patent 6521869 and thereby obviate the rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Corless (Reg. No. 38,360)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel: (617) 439-4444
Fax: (617) 439-4170